

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DPW-01 /079 W

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R 240339Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6935

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, VN, KN

SUBJ: JAPANESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND
NORTH VIETNAM

1. EMBASSY HAS CHECKED NEWS REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT JAPANESE FIRM (TOYO MENKA) AND FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (KEIDANREN) ARE PREPARED FOR MAJOR EXPANSION OF THEIR ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM RESPECTIVELY. WHILE NOT DENYING CONTINUED INTEREST IN THESE COUNTRIES, RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED TERMED REPORTS EXAGGERATIONS BY OVERZEALOUS PRESS.

2. MANAGER OF TOYO MENKA TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPORT DEPARTMENT YOSHIDA DENIED PRESS STORY THAT FIRM HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO EXPORT \$26 MILLION TEXTILE MILL TO NORTH KOREA AND INTENDED TO APPLY TO JAPAN EXIM BANK FOR FINANCING IN NEAR FUTURE. YOSHIDA SAID FIRM HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH KOREA IN GENERAL WAY, BUT HAD TAKEN NO SPECIFIC ACTION AND WAS EVEN UNCERTAIN AS TO SERIOUSNESS OF PROPOSAL. TOYO MENKA, HE CONCLUDED, IS STUDYING THE PROPOSAL BUT IS SKEPTICAL AS TO ITS FEASIBILITY.

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3. ACCORDING TO KEIDANREN OFFICIAL KOIKI, KEIDANREN DIRECTOR TETSUYA SENGU VISITED HANOI OCTOBER 2-9 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT NO AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED. HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED ALLEGATIONS IN PRESS THAT KEIDANREN WOULD HELP NORTH VIETNAM FORMULATE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN OR PROVIDE AID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL AND FERTILIZER PLANTS. KOIKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KEIDANREN RETAINS ACTIVE INTEREST IN ECONOMIC TIES WITH NORTH VIETNAM, BUT SAID MAJOR PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED BEFORE TRADE CAN EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY. KOIKI CITED DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EXPORT FINANCING IN ABSENCE OF HARD INFORMATION ON STATE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TRADE, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO16695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740373-0824
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741211/aaaaajak.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM
TAGS: ETRD, JA, VN, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005